

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) A toner cartridge comprising a tapered portion extending from near a front end to near a rear end along a longitudinal direction of an outer circumferential portion, and a plurality of rib portions in the form of ribs formed on a region extending from the front end to a predetermined position to make a size of the region in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction uniform along the longitudinal direction.

4. (Currently amended) A cartridge according to claim 13, wherein said toner cartridge includes a toner replenishment port for replenishing toner when said cartridge is housed in a developing device, and a shutter which opens/closes the toner replenishment port, and the predetermined position is near the toner replenishment port.

5. (Currently amended) A developing device which can house a toner cartridge having, ~~on an outer circumferential portion, a first untapered region extending from near a front end to a predetermined position and a tapered region extending from the predetermined position to near a rear end,~~ a tapered portion extending from near a front end to near a rear end along a longitudinal direction of an outer circumferential portion, and a plurality of rib portions in the form of ribs formed on a region extending from the front end to a predetermined position to make a size of the region in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction uniform along the longitudinal direction, comprising:

a toner cartridge guide inner wall which houses the toner cartridge,

~~said toner cartridge guide inner wall having a second untapered region in a region corresponding to the first untapered region of the toner cartridge when the toner cartridge is housed.~~

6. (Currently amended) A toner cartridge which is detachably provided in an image forming apparatus, comprising:

said toner cartridge being configured to be inserted in and removed from the image forming apparatus along a longitudinal direction of said toner cartridge and having, on an outer circumference thereof, a tapered portion inclined along the longitudinal direction and an untapered portion substantially parallel to a direction to be removed,

said toner cartridge further comprising, on the outer circumference, a replenishment port for replenishing toner to the image forming apparatus, and a shutter member which covers the replenishment port, said shutter member opening/closing the replenishment port when said toner cartridge is attached/detached to/from the image forming apparatus, and

a cap which closes one end of said container along a longitudinal direction of said container, and allows discrimination of a color and an amount of toner contained in said container.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) A toner cartridge exchangeably mounted in an image forming apparatus, comprising:

a first portion which extends in a longitudinal direction, has a substantially cylindrical shape, and contains toner;

a substantially rectangular second portion which is formed integrally with said first portion along the longitudinal direction;

a container which has a third portion integrally formed with at least part of said first portion along the longitudinal direction;

a toner agitating member provided on said first portion;

a screw provided on said third portion;

a discharge port which is formed in one end of said third portion to discharge toner conveyed by said screw;

a lid member which opens/closes said discharge port as said toner cartridge moves relative to the image forming apparatus when said toner cartridge is replaced;

a plurality of gears which are provided at one end of said container and outside said container to rotate said screw and said toner agitating member; and

a cap which closes one end of said container which is located opposite to a side where said plurality of gears are provided, along a longitudinal direction of said container, has a grip with which said container can be pulled out, and allows discrimination of a color and an amount of toner contained in said container,

wherein said toner cartridge, being configured to be inserted in and removed from the image forming apparatus along a longitudinal direction of said toner cartridge and having on an outer circumference thereof, a tapered portion inclined along the longitudinal direction and an untapered portion inclined along the longitudinal direction and an untapered portion substantially parallel to a direction to be removed.

9. (Original) A cartridge according to claim 8, wherein said container has a tapered portion at least partly along the longitudinal direction.

10. (Original) A cartridge according to claim 8, wherein said container has a tapered portion inclined in the longitudinal direction, and an untapered portion.

11. (Original) A cartridge according to claim 8, further comprising an opening/closing member for opening/closing a replenishment port of the image forming apparatus.

12. (Original) A cartridge according to claim 8, wherein toner is collected to a central portion of said container along the longitudinal direction by rotation of said screw and conveyed from near the central portion toward the opening portion by said screw.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 3, wherein said toner cartridge includes a toner replenishment for replenishing toner when said cartridge is

housed in a developing device, and a shutter which opens/closes the toner replenishment port, and the predetermined position is near the toner replenishment port.

15. (New) A cartridge according to claim 6, wherein an inclined surface is provided at a boundary region between said untapered region and said tapered region to connect said regions.

16. (New) A cartridge according to claim 6, wherein said cap is formed from a transpired member.

17. (New) A cartridge according to claim 6, wherein said cap has a grip with which said container can be pulled out.